

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 300945Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7890

INFO CINCPAC HI

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 13088

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: KC SECTOR 33 APPROACH

REF: A. STATE 214593

REFS PHNOM PENH 12378 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS DEPARTMENT MUST HAVE ASSUMED, EMBASSY HAS NOT REPORTED FURTHER SINCE REFTEL B SENT TWO WEEKS AGO FOR LACK OF ANY FIRM NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

2. GENERAL SOOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, FANK C-IN-C, FINALLY WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH A TRUE REPRESENTATIVE FROM KC SECTOR 33 ON SEPTEMBER 22, AND A SERIES OF STEPS WERE AGREED UPON INVOLVING ARRANGEMENTS TO BE WORKED OUT LOCALLY BETWEEN SECTOR 33 AND THE FANK THIRD DIVISION COMMANDER, WHOSE SECTOR FRONTS DIRECTLY ON ROUTE 3 AND THE AREA OF KC SECTOR 33. SUCH CONTACTS WERE INITIATED, BUT THEY HAVE GONE SLOWLY. AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS BECOME UNFORTUNATELY CLEARER THAT WHAT MAY BE INVOLVED IS NOT SO MUCH A RALLYING IN PLACE, BUT A RALLYING BY COMING OVER OF AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF KC TERRITORIALS AND MIXED CIVILIANS FROM THE AREA. THE KC SECTOR COMMANDER, THACH YOEURN, IS BELIEVED, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, TO HAVE GATHERED A NUMBER

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OF HIS PEOPLE IN AN AREA WEST OF ROUTE 3 IN THE DIRECTION

OF ROUTE 4. MEANWHILE, KC MAIN FORCE ELEMENTS OF THE 11TH BRIGADE, PROBABLY CONSISTING OF THE 153RD REGIMENT, HAVE BECOME SIGNIFICANTLY MORE ACTIVE IN THE AREA SOUTH OF THE FANK THIRD DIVISION FRONT AND TO THE EAST OF ROUTE 3.

3. RECENT COMMUNICATIONS FROM THACH YOUEUN TO THE THIRD DIVISION COMMANDER HAVE APPEARED TO BE MORE IN THE NATURE OF PALAVER, AND NO DATES ARE SUGGESTED FOR THE RALLIZING, WHETHER BY COMING OVER OR IN PLACE.. GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF STRONG MAINLINE KC UNITS NOT FAR AWAY, IT BECOMES CLEARER TO US THAT FANK IS WELL ADVISED TO WATCH THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND CAREFULLY, WHICH IS WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THIS DEVELOPMENT CLOSELY, BUT WILL REPORT FURTHER ONLY WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT TO REPORT, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. WE REMAIN MINDFUL OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLOITATION THIS AFFAIR COULD AFFORD US, BUT ARE EQUALLY INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING PERSPECTIVE UNTIL WE SEE RESULTS. FINALLY, WE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF DELAY OR STALLING ON THE FANK SIDE. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN WITH THE KC.
DEAN

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NNN

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